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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

The attached recommendation to the General Assembly, adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its third session (11-29 January 1993) pursuant to article 45 (c) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (see General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex) is transmitted herewith for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

* A/48/150.

ANNEX

Children in armed conflicts: Recommendation to the General Assembly adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its third session (11-29 January 1993)

1. In accordance with the provisions of article 45 (c) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Rights of the Child "may recommend to the General Assembly that it request the Secretary-General to undertake, on its behalf, studies on specific issues relating to the rights of the child" (see General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex).

2. At its second session, held in September and October 1992, the Committee on the Rights of the Child devoted one day to a general discussion on the topic "Children in armed conflicts". The main issues discussed included the relevance and adequacy of existing standards applicable in the framework of children in armed conflicts; the measures to ensure effective protection to children in situations of armed conflicts and the promotion of physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration. The report of the Committee on its second session (CRC/C/10, paras. 61-77) and the summary records of its 38th and 39th meetings (CRC/C/SR.38 and 39) reflect the discussion of the issues at the Committee's second session. The Committee further discussed these problems at its third session (11-29 January 1993).

3. The Committee on the Rights of the Child concluded that, in order to focus greater attention on the serious problem of children in armed conflicts, a major United Nations study should be undertaken. It is clear that children suffer badly in current armed conflicts; humanitarian law standards are frequently violated or do not cover all relevant situations. Attempts to organize "corridors of peace" or "days of tranquillity" for the sake of humanitarian needs have not always been welcomed by the parties involved. There is therefore a need to review the international response to these urgent problems and to discuss new approaches to their solution. Accordingly, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly, in accordance with article 45 (c) of the Convention, that it request the Secretary-General to undertake a study on ways and means of improving the protection of children from the adverse effects of armed conflicts. For this purpose, the Secretary-General might wish to invite the cooperation of relevant specialized agencies, other United Nations organs, non-governmental organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to bring this recommendation to the attention of the General Assembly for consideration at its forty-eighth session.